



NEWS RELEASE

NORTH DAKOTA HIGHWAY PATROL
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 17, 2006

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PATROL SEES INCREASE IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

The North Dakota Highway Patrol has seen a steady increase in drug-related arrests and asset seizures over the past several years. Patrol officers have made over 2000 drug-related arrests since 2003 with over 200 of them felonies. "The transportation of illegal narcotics within the state continues to be a huge concern," said Colonel Bryan Klipfel, Superintendent of the Patrol.

The Patrol has seen substantial increases in arrests and narcotic searches through the use of canine teams and specialized training for troopers. The Patrol currently utilizes 9 canines and has trained 31 troopers in criminal drug interdiction techniques. Since 2003, the Patrol has seized over \$300,000 cash, several vehicles, and over 3 million dollars worth of illegal narcotics.

A January 17, 2006, traffic stop by Bismarck Trooper Jeremy Rost intercepted nearly six pounds of crystal methamphetamine worth an estimated \$400,000. The drugs were being transported through the state and were seized during a stop for a traffic violation.

In 2005, total NDHP drug arrests increased 20% and felony drug arrests increased 102% over 2004 figures. Three additional canines were placed in service in 2004. "We know that narcotic trafficking is occurring on our state's highways, and we are increasing our efforts to combat the problem through additional canine support and criminal interdiction training for our troopers," said Colonel Klipfel.

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